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SUBJECT: CZECHS WELCOME USG CANDIDACY FOR UN HRC

REF: STATE 31175

(SBU) Czech MFA Director of Human Rights and Transition Policy, Gabriela Dlouha, responded on April 6 with pleasure on behalf of the GOCR to our demarche indicating that we would seek election to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). Dlouha noted that the Czechs, as well as the EU, very much appreciated our willingness to assume "deeper engagement." Emphasizing Czech respect for the USG's longstanding commitment to advancing human rights, she stated that it is her belief that we will be able to better shape the agenda of the UN HRC from within. She opined that once it is widely known that we will seek election, we will likely win a seat. She also noted that the Czechs look forward to working with us to promote human rights within this body. She indicated that she will be sending instructions to her delegation in Geneva, and stated the Czechs will also likely seek a seat on the HRC, but not until 2011.

Thompson-Jones